

August, 1948

Come On to Milwaukee!

Fifth ARRL National Convention, Sept. 4th-5th-6th

BY SIDNEY R. ROSE,* W9VKC

FORTY Milwaukee amateurs are moving down the home-stretch after a year of preliminary planning, as the first National Convention in ten years, scheduled for the 1948 Labor Day week-end at the Milwaukee Auditorium, takes final shape.

Under the direction of rotund Jack Doyle, W9GPI, the various and diverse committees set up by the sponsoring organization, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, have lined up a program packed with activity for men and women in every aspect of the art. V.h.f., 'phone, c.w., DX, traffic, Wouff-Hong, ARRL organization, Army and Navy reserve agencies, etc., all have their respective places on the list of events. Famous hams, important hams, foreign hams, official hams — and, mostly, just plain hams — will be in attendance. The September conclave, with a continuous round of action for three days, promises to outdo anything ever before reached at an amateur convention.

How important nationally to amateurs and the ARRL is a convention that takes up the slack of a decade was pointedly demonstrated when one of the largest affiliated clubs in the country canceled an annual affair that regularly draws more than 3000 hams to Chicago in the late summer. The famous Hamfesters of that city summarily withdrew out of deference to the Milwaukee convention and have thrown their weight behind the National Hamfester representatives have attended National Convention Committee meetings at the Gettleman (W9IZO) Rathskeller in Milwaukee and have voiced approval of the plans afoot. The Chicago Area Radio Club Council also has a man on the over-all convention committee.

The Federal Communications Commission will

* Publicity Chairman, National Convention Committee.

Exhibits and convention sessions will be in the Milwaukee Auditorium, adjacent to major hotels. Facilities include several large meeting halls, exhibit space, and cafeteria.

• The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, sponsors of the 1948 ARRL National Convention, invites you — and the family — to attend an amateur gathering which they promise will be the biggest and best in ham history. Here are the highlights of a three-day meeting you'll long remember.

hold the spotlight as the convention opens in the block-square Milwaukee Auditorium on Saturday morning, Sept. 4th. FCC personnel will be in attendance during registration to offer amateur examinations at that time. At the same hour the exhibits set up by leading manufacturers and distributors of ham gear, plus organizational exhibits by the League and the Army and Navy, will be open for initial inspection. Manned by representatives of the various organizations displaying their wares, the booths in the Auditorium's Mechanics Hall are expected to be a feature of the three-day get-together.

Besides the Navy exhibit, Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone, director of Naval communications, will be a convention guest and speaker, and the local unit of Naval Electronic Warfare is making arrangements for a conducted tour of the submarine *Tautog*, based at Milwaukee. Army officials will also be in attendance. Leading the delegation of guests from Washington will be FC Commissioner George E. Sterling, W3DF, plus George K. Rollins, W3GA, and Robert W. Percy, W4IQR, of the amateur division of FCC. Mr. Sterling will be a speaker on the main convention program and Messrs. Rollins and Percy are expected to discuss important ham problems.



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George Ruger, W9VWG, a Milwaukee alderman, will introduce Mayor Frank Zeidler, who will greet the convention for the city, and the Governor will offer the Badger handshake as the first afternoon's program unfolds. President George Bailey of ARRL will deliver the League's response.

A Black Forest evening in the finest tradition of Milwaukee's Old World hospitality will highlight the entertainment Saturday, and Chairman Doyle promises mountains of choice and tasty food and plenty to drink, served conveniently and pleasantly. This convention will be unique in that no formal "banquet" is on the schedule of events. The committee made the decision to hold the first social gathering of the convention as a buffet-style party because of the inadequacy and discomfort in serving so large a group as is anticipated.

Following the satisfying of heavy appetites, Technical Program Chairman George Pfister, W9IZQ, has announced a v.h.f. "hamfest" meeting led by QST's Ed Tilton, W1HDQ. It seems that the nation's v.h.f. enthusiasts are also foregoing a national parley this year, and the Milwaukee convention is being touted as the "stopper" — the point where all good very-high-frequency men will have a chance to hash out their problems and review the latest improvements in the art. Mr. Pfister expects FCC-men Rollins and Percy to have a lot to say about television interference at this and the other technical meetings on the convention program. A special post on the convention committee has been allotted to Frank Maiorana, W9TPT, who will coordinate the v.h.f. activity. (Among those already under the wire with convention reservations is C. S. (Buz) Busby, OA4AE, Lima, Peru, and the Missus. Busby was the recipient of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club gold cup for the South American end of the first intercontinental contact made on 6 meters. Armando Huaman, OA4BL, representing the Radio Club of Peru, has also presented his credentials to Registration Chairman Joe Collins, W9PYM.)

Breakfast Sunday morning will include informal gatherings at the various hotel coffee shops with the Navy men, emergency-organization members, traffic men, DX exponents, v.h.f. operators, etc., arranging to talk shop while drinking doughnuts. At 9:30 Clarence Burke, W9KEU, has arranged the hidden-transmitter hunts; the search will go on for transmitters on 10, 6 and 2 meters. One of the finest technical speakers in the country will hold forth later Sunday morning. He is Jean J. Brand, a wartime consultant on radar and radio-frequency transmission lines to the Navy. Mr. Brand, born in Switzerland, will discuss antennas and his transmission-line specialty. QST's DX editor, Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, is expected to offer the guiding hand at the DX meeting on Sunday morning,

and the best mobile installations at the convention will also be judged about this time.

Clyde Richelieu, W9ARE, Central Division director, will sound the keynote at the afternoon ARRL meeting, again introducing League President George Bailey, W2KIL. Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH, will discuss "Your Organization — the ARRL"; Ed Handy, W1BDI, will talk on ARRL field organization and operating activities; ARRL General Counsel Segal will speak following the midmeeting intermission; and Byron Goodman, W1DX, will demonstrate s.s.s.c. This



Jack Doyle, W9GPI, General Convention Chairman.

series of meetings will undoubtedly be the most important of the entire convention and will serve to acquaint most of those present with the inner workings of League headquarters.

Tommy Gettleman, entertainment chairman, has a three-hour program lined up for the main Auditorium arena at 8:00 Sunday night, and Charley Meyer, W9GVL, is in charge of the famed Wouff-Hong initiation ritual due to follow the entertainment. Mrs. George Toppe, W9AYX, is chairman of all XYL activity for the convention; according to advance registrations, 25% of those in attendance will be of the fair sex.

Technical discussions are on the program for Monday, with an afternoon tour of the new television installation at WTMJ-TV scheduled to round out the three-day parley. Doyle and his two-score cohorts have assured all visitors to the Milwaukee National — Sept. 4th, 5th and 6th — a well-balanced amateur radio diet and fun and frolic from start to finish.

For reservations and further information, write the General Convention Chairman, 4331 No. Wildwood Ave., Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin. Advance registrations will insure ideal hotel accommodations. The registration fee is \$7.50 per person, and club groups that plan to attend on

(Continued on page 112)

WELCOME TO MILWAUKEE

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National Convention

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masse can obtain blanket hotel reservations by notifying the Housing Chairman early. The Badger Emergency Net meets each night from 6:00 to 7:00 CST on 3950 kc. and any message to convention headquarters will be expedited to destination via this medium.

This is also Wisconsin's centennial year, with special entertainment and celebrations going on throughout the state. Both before and after the convention period the fish will be hungry and waiting for visitors to the land of a million lakes. A note to the convention committee will get the dope to you on where they're biting best.

See you in Milwaukee over Labor Day, OM!

Hints & Kinks

(Continued from page 57)

through the wall to the inside of the shack where a direction indicator may be attached if desired.

This mechanism has been in use for several months and has provided trouble-free operation, even when it was covered with a thick coating of ice and snow. In addition to the low cost and simplicity of construction, it is superior to many motor-driven systems because it permits the speed of rotation of the beam to be changed to suit the operator's convenience. All he has to do to get the beam around in a hurry is crank a little faster! — George Rossetti, W1OPW

A VERSATILE PORTABLE ANTENNA SYSTEM

The antenna "system" shown in Fig. 6 was developed for portable use as a means of avoiding antenna troubles that had been encountered in considerable experience operating as a portable station. It has proved to be quite versatile, and saves a great deal of the time usually consumed preparing the antenna required for a particular site.

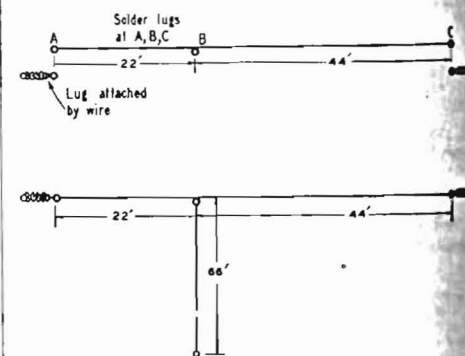


Fig. 6 — A timesaving portable antenna system. Three 66-foot lengths of wire are prepared in advance, making it possible to put up an antenna in jig time.

The system makes use of three 66-foot lengths of rubber-covered "lead-in" wire. Soldering lugs are attached to each end of each length, and a third lug is connected to a point 22 feet from one

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